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REPLY COMMENTS OF

DATE: January 15, 1999

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We file these reply comments on January 15, 1999, regarding the FCC's proposed Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules, WT Docket 98-143. ✓

Our reply comments are enclosed.

We SUPPORT emphasis on digital modes over voice modes, increased testing on technical knowledge, and preserving CW as a mode uniquely suited to the Amateur Service.

We OPPOSE comments by Fred Maia (on behalf of NC-VEC), CQ Communications' and others who advocate further erosion of licensing standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our observations and concerns about the future of the Amateur Service.

Sincerely,

Arley A. Garvin
Patricia A. Garvin
Arley A. Garvin WB5NKC
Patricia A. Garvin WB5NKD
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Enclosure: Reply Comments

REPLY COMMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Personal Data

I am 65 years old and have been a licensed amateur radio operator for 24 years. Patricia is 60 years old and has also been licensed for 24 years. We both hold Extra Class licenses.

Member of a Technical Service, not Simply a Hobby

We consider our recreational time on the radio precious, but the Amateur Service is a primarily technical service designed to attract thecnically-minded people. As stated by Kenwood Corp. in their comments, amateur radio is perhaps the most educational and cost-effective service regulated by the FCC.

Volunteer On Air Instructors

We have a CW training course which we conduct on the air. It contains 169 training messages which helps prepare each amateur to act as a net control and handle messages in an emergency. It also qualifies them to be instructors.

Emergency Volunteer

During emergencies we help where we can by acting as net control on nets, handling messages both directly and by relay and by helping to keep the frequencies clear of interference where possible.

In both emergency and non-emergency traffic handling, we have observed how important CW can be as a supplement to HF voice nets when the need arises.

Also, we cannot overemphasize the importance of digital techniques--on both VHF/UHF and HF--in the modern Amateur Radio Service. Each mode is essential as part of an integrated tool kit for emergency and non-emergency communications. Unfortunately, too many new amateurs focus their resources only on VHF FM communications, and ignore digital, CW and HF voice modes.

All of this self-training is accomplished at almost no cost to the government. Yet it supplies a great opportunity for young and old alike to meet and share their love for radio and electronics. There is no generation gap on the air, and international boundries disappear. There is no other technical communications service like it.

Through experience, we have developed an appreciation of the ways ways in which all modes complement each other, and which modes are advantageous for which situation.

In the amateur service: Complementary techniques and modes allow the skilled operator to choose from a broad array of modes to get the job done. We will succeed in the 21st century by maintaining our traditional skills while continually adding new ones--always enlarging our collection of tools and techniques.